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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

STAT

8 August 1975

STAT

Chief, Operations Group

Subject: FBIS-BBC Working Group on Standardization (Sourcelines)

Dear John:

As we indicated in LD069 of 1 ~~August~~ August 1975, we are forwarding the minutes of the Working Group's 31 July meeting, which dealt mainly with sourcelines. We are requesting action on points 2 and 4 below.

In order to spare you from developing a violent headache in trying to decipher STAT shorthand, especially in the second section, I'll offer the following clarifications:

1. Paragraphs 1.01, 1.03, and 1.04 confirm that there is now joint agreement on the first eight sourceline recommendations contained in the list submitted by the Working Group in our 4 June 1975 letter and as modified by the suggested changes contained in your 7 July 1975 reply.

2. Paragraph 1.02 contains a new proposal designed to fill a gap in the original list and we ask that you consider it and inform us whether you approve or disapprove. We should hasten to explain that in this case, as in 1.06 (taken up below), one party will be free to cross out the destination if it disagrees with the other party about its usefulness. However, we don't anticipate many, if any, differences of opinion in these cases.

ACTION

3. Paragraph 1.05 is self-explanatory. BBC says it will draw up the list very soon and it assures us it won't be a long one.

4. Paragraph 1.06 contains a revised version of item 9 of our original list. We believe the revision takes care of the objections to our original version. Again, we ask you to let us know how you feel about this recommendation in its newly worded form.

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5. Section 2 of the minutes deals with an FBIS complaint taken up after the sourcelines session was out of the way. We needn't bother you with the nature of our gripe, but we're certainly glad to inform you and the DRD that it appears to be leading to a solid BBC commitment to order its monitors to provide FBIS with running summaries (from live monitoring) of all important, lengthy items. STAT has been leading our fight for this over the past year and this is the first time we've gotten Rubinstein to admit that his monitors can do this without wasting any effort. We'll keep DRD informed on our progress in getting this implemented the way we want it.

Sincerely,

STAT

Deputy Bureau Chief

cc: C/DRD, C/FCS

Attachment: 6 August Standardization Meeting

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From: Editc , News and PublicationsDepartme Monitoring Service

Room No. & Building: 126, Caversham Tel. Ext.: 266 date: 6th August 1975

Subject: STANDARDISATION: MEETING 31.7.75

To: Chief Editor, FBIS London Bureau Copy: Deputy Chief, FBIS London Bureau; H.R.D.M.S.

Attendance was as at earlier meetings.

1.0 Sourcelines

1.01 The meeting noted FBIS Headquarters approval of the following proposals [redacted] letter of 4th June 1975 to [redacted]): STAT

4 June point 1 (i) the word "service" to be eliminated from all sources lines; . okay.

4 June point 2 (ii) the word "domestic" to be used for official broadcasts intended for a domestic audience; okay with 1.03 principle combined

4 June point 4 (iii) the phrase "domestic and external" to be used for any official transmission which can be accurately determined to be intended for both domestic and external audiences; okay

(iv) the word "external" to be substituted for all phrases now used to indicate official transmissions not intended for the domestic audience nor specifically targeted. okay examples ?

NEW point 5

1.02 The meeting proposed the following additions to (iv) (above):

Responds to discussion on point 4 agree to disagree

Non-official broadcasts for named targets outside the country in which the radio is located will include destination when this can be accurately determined and when either organisation thinks it useful to do so. unclear is THIS optional or mandatory.

1.03 The meeting accepted the principle that "domestic" and/or "external" should be included only in sourcelines of official radios, and agreed that the word "domestic" should be used in TV sourcelines. point 4 and 3 okay

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1.04 The meeting agreed the following ruling:

Point 1

When a sourceline is to include destination the word "to" and not "for" should be used in description of destination.

Okay

1.05 The meeting noted that BBC would submit a list of radios covered by FBIS to whose sourcelines name of country could in its view usefully be added.

Agreed.

1.06 The following revised recommendation was approved:

Agreed Disagreed

~~Must~~ Okay w/ qualification

Sourcelines for press (news) agencies will include destination when this can be accurately determined and when either organisation thinks it useful to do so.

optional or Binding

1.07 It was agreed that the committee's next meeting would seek to resolve the matter of sourcelines for what were now called "clandestine" radios.

2.0 BBC Reception Dept. Commitments

2.01 The meeting decided that its proper purposes included standardisation of RD treatment of intake.

2.02 The meeting took note of Ed.N.P's account, dated 23rd December 1974, of BBC-FBIS discussions on 3rd December 1974.

2.03 FBIS reaffirmed paragraph (3) of that account, which said that the paper defining RD's commitment to BBC News Bureau (16.6.72) served adequately FBIS's need for the substance of Advance FYIs.

2.04 FBIS complained that RD's treatment of a recent speech by Sadat, while meeting commitments defined in the paper of 16.6.72, had not supplied information enabling its editors to give FBIS headquarters an outline of the content of the speech in advance of its text. FBIS expressed satisfaction with treatment devised by H.R.D. for a subsequent speech by Sadat, which had supplied this need.

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2.05 H.R.D. undertook to draft for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting an addition to commitments defined in the 16.6.72 paper which would meet FBIS's need for advance outline of the content of such broadcasts.

2.06 Ed.N.P. said his department had no such need, though the additional commitment could be useful to it. He would oppose any such commitment if it was expected to have or could be shown to have any adverse effect upon existing RD commitments, e.g. delay in the submission of Snap or Flash as defined in the 16.6.72 paper. H.R.D. gave a firm assurance that there would be no adverse effect.

2.07 H.R.D. said that while he was willing to undertake the additional commitment technical reasons would sometimes inhibit RD's response to it.

This account has been agreed in draft by all who attended the meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday 7th August, at 1530 hours.

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